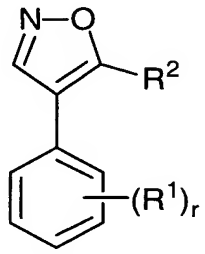
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-9. Canceled.

10. (Original) A compound of formula (VI):



(VI);

wherein:

r is an integer from 0 to 4;

R^1 is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, -$NR^{1c}R^{1d}$, -OR^{1e}, and -SR^{1e};

R^{1c} and R^{1d} are independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl and C_4-C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl;

alternatively, R^{1c} and R^{1d} are taken together to form a heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of:

piperidine, pyrrolidine, piperazine, N-methylpiperazine, morpholine and thiomorpholine, each heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1-3 C_1-C_4 alkyl groups;

R^{1e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and C_4-C_6 cycloalkylalkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of:

H, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_2-C_4 alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{10} cycloalkylalkyl, C_1-C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4 alkyl substituted with 0-5 R^{2a};

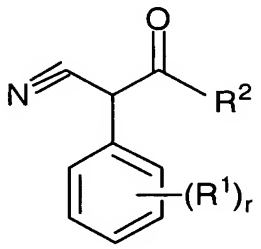
R^{2a} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, halo, CN, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, -OR^{2e}, and -SR^{2e}; and

R^{2e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and C_4-C_6 cycloalkylalkyl.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

r is an integer from 0 to 4;

R^1 is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, -$NR^{1c}R^{1d}$, -OR^{1e}, and -SR^{1e};

R^{1c} and R^{1d} are independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl and C_4-C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl;

alternatively, R^{1c} and R^{1d} are taken together to form a heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of:

piperidine, pyrrolidine, piperazine, N-methylpiperazine, morpholine and thiomorpholine, each heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1-3 C_1-C_4 alkyl groups;

R^{1e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and C_4-C_6 cycloalkylalkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of:

H, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_2-C_4 alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{10} cycloalkylalkyl, C_1-C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4 alkyl substituted with 0-5 R^{2a};

R^{2a} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

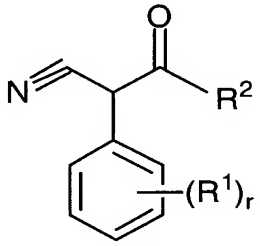
H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, halo, CN, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, -OR^{2e}, and -SR^{2e}; and

R^{2e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and C_4-C_6 cycloalkylalkyl;

provided that the compound is other than 3-oxo-2-phenyl-butyronitrile, 2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-3-oxo-butyronitrile, or 5-methyl-3-oxo-2-meta-tolyl-hexanenitrile.

12. (New) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

r is 2, 3 or 4;

R^1 is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, -$NR^{1c}R^{1d}$, -OR^{1e}, and -SR^{1e};

R^{1c} and R^{1d} are independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl and C_4-C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl;

alternatively, R^{1c} and R^{1d} are taken together to form a heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of:

piperidine, pyrrolidine, piperazine, N-methylpiperazine, morpholine and thiomorpholine, each heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1-3 C_1-C_4 alkyl groups;

R^{1e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and C_4-C_6 cycloalkylalkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of:

H, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_2-C_4 alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{10} cycloalkylalkyl, C_1-C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4 alkyl substituted with 0-5 R^{2a};

R^{2a} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4-C_{12} cycloalkylalkyl, halo, CN, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, $-OR^{2e}$, and $-SR^{2e}$; and

R^{2e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:
H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and C_4-C_6 cycloalkylalkyl.